

National Hereford Feedout Recognizes Test Winners

National Hereford Feedout winners were recognized at the American Hereford Association (AHA) Annual Meeting in Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 23, for consigning the high-performing cattle to the winter 2006 test.

Overall winners are determined by a formula that takes into consideration the performance and carcass quality of consignments, putting the most emphasis on profit-driving performance traits. Winning the overall award for the winter test (December 2005 start date) were Brad and Dixie Hollenbeck, Brownlee, Neb., first; Oleen Bros., Dwight, Kan., second; and Bud Stolzenberg, Crookston, Neb., third. Winning the youth division was Katherine Krauss, Russell, Kan.

Other participants were Ray Allaman, Junction City, Kan.; B&D Herefords, Claflin, Kan.; Bookcliff Herefords, Russell, Kan.; Granzow Herefords, Herington, Kan.; Gustafson Herefords, Junction City, Kan.; KEG Herefords, Valentine, Neb.; MM Ranch, Chanute, Kan.; Shumaker Herefords, Wetmore, Kan.; K/R Herefords, Spearfish, S.D.; and Roth Farms, Green, Kan.

Some consignors entered their entire steer crop, while others sent only steers that represented certain sire groups. Many of the steers were straight Hereford, but some were black or red baldies. All were harvested at National Beef Packing Co. LLC.

Category winners were as follows: **Average daily gain (ADG)** – Oleen Bros., 4.5 lb./day; **Cost of gain (COG)** – MM Ranch, 38 cents; **Dry matter conversion** – Hollenbeck, 4.4 lb. feed/lb. gain; **Ribeye area/hundredweight (REA/cwt.)** – KEG Herefords, 1.24 square inch/cwt; **Marbling** – Krauss, 5.46 average marbling score; **Fat thickness** – tie between Granzow Herefords and Oleen Bros., .46 inch; **Yield Grade (YG)** – KEG Herefords, 2.61.



National Hereford Feedout winter 2006 winners recognized at the AHA Annual Meeting, Oct. 23, were Brad and Dixie Hollenbeck, Brownlee, Neb., first; Oleen Bros., Dwight, Kan., second; and Bud Stolzenberg, Crookston, Neb., third. Winning the youth division was Katherine Krauss, Russell, Kan. Pictured (l to r) at the awards presentation are: Ken Stephens, KEG Herefords, Valentine, Neb., who is the seedstock supplier for the first- and third-place winners; Jan Oleen; Katherine Krauss; Tom Granzow, Kansas Hereford Association secretary-manager; and Jack Holden, 2005-06 AHA president.

Two hundred fifty-five steers were entered in the winter 2006 test. They posted an overall ADG of 3.8, compared to the Kansas yard average of 3.58. This average, assembled at Kansas State University, is based on closeout figures of nine Kansas yards. The feedout cattle had a feed conversion rate of 5.04 (Kansas yard average, 5.84) and an average cost of gain of 45 cents (Kansas yard average, 53 cents).

“These numbers show the advantage of Hereford genetics in the feedyard and the efficiency they exhibit,” says Tom Granzow, Kansas Hereford Association (KHA) secretary-manager. “The carcass results were also very industry friendly. This year the cattle were fed longer and still had a very good Yield Grade average of 3.16, dressing percentage of 63.36% and ribeye area of 1.09 square inches per hundredweight. Very few steers had a ribeye area under the USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) par value, a testament to the increased muscling in Hereford cattle.”

The National Hereford Feedout, formerly the Genetic Outreach Program (GOP), allows producers from across the country to consign

whiteface cattle to be fed out at Royal Beef Feedyard in Scott City, Kan. The KHA organizes the program in such a way that Hereford and Hereford-English cross pens can be entered in the test with just a minimum of five head.

The cattle are tagged and individually weighed, and ultrasound data is collected. Then at harvest they are individually weighed again, and final carcass information is gathered. The feed efficiency of each steer is calculated based on a Cornell University formula that breaks down pen stats into individual feed efficiency figures by accounting for maintenance and growth requirements of different sized animals.

Each participant gets a graph analysis of his or her cattle ranked in comparison to the others in COG, as well as other performance and carcass data measures. For producers who consign sire groups, this service provides for genetic selection and rapid herd progress.

For more information and to find out how you can participate in future tests (winter, spring or summer), contact Granzow at (785) 466-2247, (785) 466-6790 or kansashereford@tctelco.net. **HW**